

Cemetery Fees Rise

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

The cost of a buying a grave site and being buried in Duxbury increased this week.

Selectmen approved increased fees for almost all cemetery services, at the recommendations of the cemetery trustees and with the support of the Fiscal Advisory Committee.

The cost to purchase a grave increased by \$100. A resident will now pay \$605 instead of \$505; a non-resident will pay \$1,105. For residents, the cost of buying a niche wall rose by \$200 to \$505; for a non-resident, the increase was \$250 to \$705. For a cremation lot, a resident will now pay \$505, a \$325 increase, while a non-resident will pay \$705, a \$375 increase.

According to the cemetery

trustees, the reason for the price hikes for grave sites is to add additional money to the Perpetual Care fund, the Mayflower Care & Improvement fund and the Sale of Burial Rights fund. These trust funds spin off money that is used to maintain and improve the Mayflower Cemetery on Tremont Street and other town cemeteries.

The fees for burial (interment) and related work also increased, because the costs of performing these services has risen over the years, said Cemetery Director Trish Pappas.

The fee for a full weekday burial increased by \$200 to \$600 and by \$50 for a cremation interment. The extra charge for a winter burial doubled to \$100.

"It costs more than what we were charging to bury

someone at the Mayflower Cemetery," said Pappas.

To set a foundation for a headstone will now cost \$100 per square foot instead of \$40 because the costs of labor and cement have increased. To use a tent to cover a burial site will now be \$150 instead of \$75.

There were other fee increases including a \$20 increase in the cost of mailing a cremation within Massachusetts, which is now \$40.

Department of Public Works Director Tom Daley said he and Pappas scrutinized the costs of operating the cemetery after the Fiscal Advisory Committee asked them for an analysis to support the fee increases. The cemetery operates at a loss, said Daley, while the crematory makes revenue for the town.